

Education Channel Committee  
Minutes of March 3, 2011

In attendance: John Annick, Byron Campbell, Jackie Carlino, Deborah Cox, Amy DeZenzo, Vince Fini, Sue Horton, Tom Kelly, Jim Lang, Ken Mayo, Bob Mincieli, Sue Horton, Gary Cialfi, Donna Girot (videographer), Shawn Tait  
Absent: Donna Cassidy, Kate Donahue, Jeff Hackett, Marilyn Lord, Peg Perillie, Anthony Pijar, Frank Derak (ex-officio), Jim Somers (ex-officio)

The meeting was called to order by John Annick.

Donna Cassidy is ill today. Jackie Carlino was asked to take minutes in her absence.

The minutes of January 19<sup>th</sup> need to be corrected. Under “budget” the presentation date should be FEBRUARY 16<sup>th</sup> instead of January. The minutes were accepted with the change noted.

AT & T U-Verse status was discussed. John commented that he only had audio at this home. Sean can't monitor at THS. Jim Lang suggested calling support because he found out rebooting the system corrected the problem for him. A technician working on the high school problem explained that the wiring within the building is the big problem – meaning, unfortunately, a separate drop would not correct the problem.

Tony Hwang, with TR Rowe, and Anthony Musto support coordinated the two meetings with DPUC in Hartford. Tony Hwang extremely supportive. It should be noted that the per customer fee, paid by each cable company, is only for the P (public station) of the PEG and is used for operational costs. This was clarified at the February 25 meeting with DPUC. We questioned where the monies suppose to come from to operate the E and G stations. It seemed they thought the individual Towns would come up with this money. The AT&T Uverse funds based on customer per fee is being held in escrow by DPUC. Action is pending. The rep for Charter, that attended the meeting, suggested that Jim bring the request for funding to the Charter Advisory Committee. A report issued by Charter to DPUC that they spend about \$450,000 for the P or Channel 21. Jim questioned that the Committee had that type of authority.

Jim feels Tony Hwang's strategy will prove the answer. Per Tony “We do a great job. Strategy of “you are providing valuable content – you should be compensated.”

The AT & T money must go to Charter but no interconnect agreement had been made. It seems that AT&T contacted Charter in 2008 and then no one made further contact. We showed DPUC the preliminary grant application that we will be submitting for capital funds. We are awaiting the bids in order to determine the final costs.

Two action items - Why public access not on AT & T? Charter doesn't appear aggressive in following up.

1. Tony Hwang wants to know “who's lying?” Let's get to bottom of this. He will contact AT&T.
2. Jim will place the item on the Agenda of Charter Advisory Council

Question is – How does Charter compensate us for share of PEG money?

Jim has the 2010 DPUC Annual Community Access Report (96 page). It's supposed to denote the Accountability of the monies spent.

Jim will make report available to everyone \$7+ per customer 60,000 customers

Approx. 450K operation budget for Newtown

14 hrs/week of new programming is produced by TEC. Charter does 5. Newtown truck is used for town programs when invited.

Our application to DPUC will include Cameras for the BOE Administration room, the projector, screen & Mikes for the Town Council Chambers. Estimate of grant request is \$30,000. Our 3 State legislators will be adding letters to the application.

BUDGET discussion – The BOE has indicated a cut of \$22,500 for Channel 17 dependent on the extent of their budget increase. This \$22,500 is for \$19,500 that covers Ralph Pascale time to support Shawn, \$1300 for equipment and \$800 for supplies. The BOE operation cost for the Station Director is not in the total. The agreement 8 years ago, with the BOE and the Superintendent, cover cost of ½ station director and ½ for the THS audio/video needs as well as all of the other BOE schools (when a technical problem occurs).

Shawn now being held responsible for the new auditorium

Discussion that took place on this issue - Senior support? 17 could be only link. The station provides transparency.

87 million – total BOE budget \$22,500 cut. Board of Finance request list. Wanted to see cuts at various scenarios – down to a 3% cut

Trumbull Enhancement Committee - Upgrade overall quality Shawn has run workshop with videographers. Will schedule at least quarterly. Next meeting is April 14 of this committee.

Career opportunities – audiovisual club at Frenchtown, 2 students each elementary school – Frenchtown for training, 2 students each middle school – THS for training. We need something cohesive to help show career opportunity

Jim revised the Videographer Request Form

John indicated that two facilities in Trumbull were to be taped. They were the Regional Arts Center part of Cooperative Education Services and St. Vincent's Feroletto Special Needs Center.

Public Relations – Town Clerk's Newsletter now carries the TEC log. Also, the senior center will be asked to post in their newsletter. Magnets made for driver training cars to promote station

Survey – no implemented changes since last survey – will hold off till next year

New Business: Info on Channel 12 news produced by Cablevision was sent to First Selectman. Unless Cablevision decides to pursue laying cable in Trumbull this is probably a dead issue for now.

Brian suggested that John meet with June Vangor at CHS to determine their interest in continuing to have a rep on the board.

Next meeting: Thursday, April 14 at 8:00 AM